

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 19 is currently being canceled.

No claims are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels a claim in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 17 and 18 are now pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 17 and 18 are allowed. It is noted that the Office Action refers to claims 1-3, whereby it is believed that these were meant to respectively correspond to claims 17-19.

Applicant also appreciates the approval of the formal drawings filed on February 4, 2004.

In the Office Action, claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(a) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as obvious over Katayama; and claim 19 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(a) as anticipated by WO 98/19303, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as obvious over WO 98/19303 in view of Kajiyama et al. Due to the cancellation of claim 19 (the Office Action refers to this claim as "claim 3", but it is believed that it was meant to refer to claim 19), these rejections are now moot.

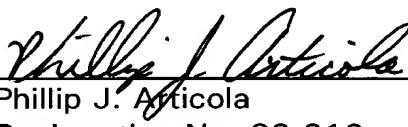
Accordingly, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

July 19, 2004  
Date

  
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Phillip J. Anticola  
Registration No. 38,819

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Customer Number: 22428  
Telephone: (202) 672-5300  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399